

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An integrated control system for providing hierarchical control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

a remote interface configured to receive a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices;

a device database configured to store device information for the distributed electronic devices;

a controller configured to receive the request for the action be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices and to generate first management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices responsive to the action to be performed at the one of the distributed electronic devices and the device information, wherein the controller is further configured to analyze a video signal received by one of the distributed electronic devices to determine if a change in a characteristic of the video signal occurs in response to the distributed electronic devices being adjusted in response to the action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices and the device information, and generate second management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices based on the change in the characteristic of the video signal;

a translator configured to translate the first and second management instructions into management messages that are encoded based on communication protocols supported by the distributed electronic devices; and

at least one communications interface configured to transmit the first and second management messages to the distributed electronic devices.

2. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the at least one communications interface includes a wireless interface.

3. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein the wireless interface is an IEEE 802.11 interface.

4. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein the wireless interface is a Bluetooth interface.

5. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 2, wherein the wireless interface is an IEEE 802.15.3a interface.

6. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the at least one communications interface includes a wireline interface.

7. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 6, wherein the at least one communications interface includes a powerline interface.

8. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the at least one communications interface includes both a wireline and a wireless interface.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing hierarchical control of distributed home entertainment electronic devices, comprising:

receiving a remote control signal that includes a request for an action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic device;

accessing device information for the distributed electronic devices;

generating first management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices in response to the action to be performed at the one of the electronic devices and the device information;

analyzing a video signal received by one of the distributed electronic devices to determine if a change in a characteristic of the video signal occurs in response to the distributed electronic devices being adjusted in response to the action to be performed at one of the distributed electronic devices and the device information;

generating second management instructions to adjust the distributed electronic devices based on the change in the characteristic of the video signal;

translating the first and second management instructions into management messages that are encoded based on the communication protocols supported by the distributed electronic devices; and

transmitting the first and second management messages to the distributed electronic devices.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing a unique identifier for a device that is used to route management messages.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the wireless protocols include IEEE 802.11(b).

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the wireless protocols include IEEE 802.11(e).

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the wireless protocols include IEEE 802.15.3a.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the wireless protocols include Bluetooth.

17-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing capabilities and status information for the distributed electronic devices.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing user preferences for settings of the distributed electronic devices.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein accessing the device information includes accessing, for each of the distributed electronic devices, a supported communication protocol.

43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
encoding each of the first and second management ~~message~~ messages based on the supported communication protocol of the distributed electronic device to which the first and second management ~~message~~ is messages are transmitted.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein supported communication protocols include both wireless and wireline communication protocols.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
prior to generating the first management instructions, interpreting the remote control signal to determine the action to be performed at the distributed electronic device.

46. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to access the device information to generate the first and second management instructions.

47. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes capabilities and status information for the distributed electronic devices.

48. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes routing information for the distributed electronic devices.

49. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information includes user preferences for settings of the distributed electronic devices.

50. (Previously Presented) The integrated control system of claim 46, wherein the device information identifies, for each of the distributed electronic devices, a supported communication protocol.

51. (Currently Amended) The integrated control system of claim 50, wherein each of the first and second management ~~message is~~ messages are encoded based on the supported communication protocol of the distributed electronic device to which the first and second management ~~message is~~ messages are transmitted.

52-53. (Canceled)

54. (New) The integrated control system of claim 1, wherein the characteristic of the video signal is at least one of an aspect ratio and a digital resolution format.

55. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the characteristic of the video signal is at least one of an aspect ratio and a digital resolution format.